



# ARROWS OF GRACE

## PURPOSE, VISION, POLICY AND PROCEDURES

*Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.*

*Psalm 127:4*

*Please carefully read this document and discuss it with your children. It is important that all members fully comply with these policies and procedures in order to ensure safety, show consideration for other members, and manage the use of the facility that God has provided. Membership in Arrows of Grace is a privilege and to be a member you must follow these guidelines.*

### **Our Core Values**

1. We believe that parents are the primary teachers of their children, recognizing the value and responsibilities of their role in their own children's education.
2. We value those who volunteer their time, the willingness to share knowledge, abilities, and Godly wisdom with others in the group.
3. Because we believe that every individual is created in the image of God, we nurture an environment where all are treated with value and respect.
4. We are committed to the truth of the Bible as the inspired Word of God and to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and we strive to teach our children from a God-honoring perspective.
5. We are committed to leaving a godly legacy and cultivating a biblical worldview in the way we educate our children.

### **What We Do**

- 1 We offer a variety options for Christian homeschooling families in Napa including: meeting every Friday throughout the school year for community days, offering special elective classes taught by members of the Napa community, and coordinating once a month field trips. We also have group holiday parties, graduation night, and special events.
- 2 We provide opportunities for homeschoolers to have structured classroom time, as well as fun community building activities and events.
- 3 We structure our Community Days with Morning Assembly, (Bible , hymn study, memorization, a fun read aloud, and presentations), followed by an hour of play/hike/activity time, and lunch.
- 4 Classroom time for both Assembly on Community Days, and Elective Classes is designed to be educationally rich, but not redundant to the core subjects that families are already doing at home. We do not require members to follow along with a curriculum at home. Our elective classes range from fun themed subjects, classes/workshops that are fun "extras" to academic "add ons" to enrich what families are already doing at home.

### **Our Vision and Goals**

1. We exist to create a homeschool community for our children that facilitates loving relationships, opportunities for growth, general life skill building, rich educational instruction, free play fun, and discipleship.
- 2 We want to educate in a way that fills our children's hearts with the wonder of God and His creation.
- 3 We want to equip our children to go out into the world as Warriors for Truth by giving them a firm foundation on the Word of God with a biblical worldview.
- 4 We want to create an environment that cultivates their love and enjoyment of homeschooling, facilitates life long friendships, and gives them the freedom to learn, explore and create to the fullest extent that homeschooling has provided for them.
5. We want them to grow in self control, respect, and appropriate behavior by giving them opportunities to learn how to engage in structured classroom time.

## **General Membership Requirement**

1. Each family is responsible for paying fees for any elective class materials/required tuition, field trip fees. Admission to the general AOG community is free.
2. Your membership registration process will not be complete until you have joined the Arrows of Grace community app *and* submitted a signed copy of the Membership Registration form.
3. Each parent is asked to serve and collaborate with the community in some way throughout the year.
4. Each parent is required to attend events with and supervise their own children. This is not a drop off program.
5. Families are also requested to pitch in with parties by participating in signing up for potluck items to bring, craft supplies that are needed, and helping with set up and clean up, etc.

## **Elective Class Registration**

1. Registration fees must be paid on or before the time designated by the teacher.
2. When registering you are making a commitment to the teacher, who will need to purchase materials for your student before the first day of class. Refunds for workbooks or project supplies will be issued at the teacher's discretion.
3. Remember when registering that your commitment to regular attendance is expected. Teachers volunteer their time to plan class, purchase supplies, and teach your child.

## **Community Day and Elective Class Parent Responsibilities**

1. Parents have a responsibility to comply with all AOG policies and procedures and encourage their children's cooperation.
2. It is mandatory that a parent remain with child during Community Day. In the unlikely event the parent cannot be there for a short time, you must notify the group ahead of time and arrange someone to supervise your child if necessary. (Exceptions can be made for parents attending, if the teacher of the class would prefer a drop off situation.)
3. Please support teachers by having your student ready for class on time with any assigned projects and all needed supplies for each class every week.
4. All adults should help monitor traffic and noise in the building between and during class time.
5. Members are responsible for keeping themselves updated on information and news by regularly reviewing updates and the schedule for the year in the community app.
6. All parents must remain after classes/community days to help clean up.

## **Class Day Student Responsibilities**

1. Be on time.
2. Be prepared. Bring supplies, workbooks, snacks, and anything else you need.
3. Dress appropriately. Girls should be modest.
4. Be quiet in the building/location of class. No yelling or running.
5. Be respectful of other students, (speak kind words and keep your hands to yourself), and be respectful and obedient to the parents, teachers, pastors, and other adults in the building.
6. Raise your hand before speaking, wait to be called on, and do not interrupt the teacher or other students.
7. Stay inside the building and remain in appropriate areas at all times. Do not go into the kitchen, closets, or run up and down stairs.
8. Help to clean up your work area every week when class is over.

## **Teaching Guidelines and Responsibilities for Elective Classes**

1. The objective of AOG is to supplement our students' education through an enjoyable structured classroom experience that offers opportunities for group interaction and fun enrichment activities.
2. Teachers who will be absent must find a replacement for their week or let their class know of a postponed lesson.
3. Teachers should come early enough to prepare the classroom before children arrive, if needed.
4. Teachers should keep an open line of communication with parents and council members concerning disruptive behavior, chronic tardiness or incomplete work.

## **Discipline**

It is our policy that parents are responsible for their children at all times, so it is ultimately the parent's duty to handle any misbehavior.

1. If a student's behavior is inappropriate during community day, a class, or event, the teacher/supervising adult can correct the child and will give the student a verbal warning, clearly communicating how behavior is to change.
2. The teacher is free to give consequences such as withholding a privilege or turn.
3. If the problem persists, the student will be asked to leave the classroom or event for a time.
4. The teacher should discuss the problem behavior with the child's parents and discuss solutions together.
5. If the child has mistreated another student or adult, the child must follow the biblical means of peacemaking and restoration by admitting his wrongdoing and seeking forgiveness. (See Matthew 18)

## **Security**

Children must remain in the building or location of event at all times and under direct parental supervision when not in class in order to manage their activities and ensure their safety. At no time are there to be unsupervised children on the church grounds.

## **Building Usage**

1. Be good stewards of the facility by leaving everything in a better condition than it was found. Put chairs back where they belong, wipe down surfaces, vacuum, pick up and throw away any trash you see. Each person needs to take a personal interest and responsibility for keeping the facility clean. Our care of the facility is a reflection of AOG and we strive to do everything as unto the Lord. We are guests in the building and if we are inconsiderate, we may not be allowed back!
2. Lunch: Clean up any trash and spills left by your family and those around you.
3. Food or drink in the classroom is reserved for special class parties or the designated snack/lunch time only.
4. Please talk quietly when you are near the pastors' offices and do not allow your children to run in the building.

## **Illness and Absence**

1. Parents should not bring children with obvious signs of illness to any events - fever, rash, serious cough, colored nasal discharge, vomiting, diarrhea, etc. Children may attend once symptoms have subsided for 24 hours.
2. If you know you will be absent (e.g. vacation) please inform the group. This will help the teacher of the week prepare for the correct number of students.

## **Official Stances on Handling Homosexuality. Pornography. Drug & Alcohol Usage. Bullying. Abuse. Profanity. and Reasons that Warrant Removal From Group**

It is first important to acknowledge that while Arrows of Grace loves to include Christians from different bible believing churches all over Napa, the primary purpose of this community is the discipleship of our children not evangelism to unbelievers. This does not mean that we will not welcome evangelistic opportunities when they come. We are, after all, seeking to train up our children to one day be Arrows that go out into the world to make disciples. We also, as a group, want to share the light of Christ with everyone we encounter.

But while it is important to acknowledge that, it is also important to acknowledge that Arrows of Grace is not a church, nor is it an outreach ministry that is specifically equipped to minister to various complex strongholds of sin, addictions, or painful familial situations that really need pastoral counsel. We believe that for the sake of our children, as well as individuals who are struggling with serious sin issues such as those listed above, it is necessary to create a list of expectations for the protection of our group members.

With this being said, we ask members to agree to the following before joining our group:

**Regarding Homosexuality and Pornography:**

1. We reject as sinful any sexual activity outside of the covenant marriage of one man and one woman. (Please see Statement of Faith for full statement on this.)
2. We further reject as sinful any attempt (or claim to the possibility of) gender alteration, including the practice of portraying oneself as a gender incongruent with one's biological, genetic sex. This includes, but is not limited to, transgenderism, transvestitism, cross-dressing, gender reassignment surgery, or the promotion of such practices as healthy. If a child comes to an AOG event and is *obviously* dressing as another gender, he or she will kindly and respectfully be asked to go home and change before returning to the event. If this is something that the child or parent is unwilling to do, they will be asked to leave the group.
3. We will not agree to calling someone, (a child or an adult), by a name other than the one he or she was given at birth and we will not agree to referring to them with their preferred pronouns if they differ from what they were born with. This does NOT mean we are going to start asking for birth certificates at the door, but it does mean that if someone is obviously trying to be recognized as something other than what they biologically are we will not go along with it. Anyone who participates in this will be asked to leave the group.
4. If it is discovered that a child has been exposed to pornography from another child within the group, a meeting will be arranged with the offending child, the child's parents, the AOG group leaders, and the pastor of Grace Church to discuss steps to take to ensure this does not happen again. If after a pastoral meeting and steps have been put in place for safety, the child continues to share inappropriate content with other members of the group, the child will be asked to leave the group.
5. Children are not allowed to bring their own smart phones or computers to AOG events.
6. Parents are asked to ensure that their children do not discuss sexual matters with other children while at co-op.

**Regarding Drug and Alcohol Use:**

1. We want to set an example to the kids of being sober minded and self controlled.
2. For the safety of the children, we do not allow recreational drugs or alcohol of any kind at AOG events.
3. If a child is encouraging drug or alcohol use with other students, a parent meeting will be arranged with the AOG group leaders. If the behavior continues the child will be asked to leave.

**Regarding Bullying, Abuse and Profanity:**

1. Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated. As followers of Christ we are required to treat one another with brotherly love and strive to be peacemakers at all times. If a child has a pattern of repeatedly bullying others, he or she will be asked to leave the group.
2. Any form of sexual or physical abuse will not be tolerated and will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
3. Profanity will not be allowed among children or adults.

We hope to never have to take the extreme measures listed above, however if a situation arises where we either determine that someone is not the right fit to join this group, or we ask them to leave the group after already joining, we would immediately direct them to a local church where they could join a community of believers, receive the gospel, and get access to any pastoral or additional help for their specific situation. Although AOG might not be the right group for them, we would do everything we could to seeing them get plugged into a church and getting the help they needed.

We value your family and your commitment to AOG – our co-op would not be possible without all of us working together. If you ever have any concerns, suggestions, or problems, please let us know. We are dedicated to serving in any way we can to help homeschooling families in our community. May God richly bless you and your family!